

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2547

USDOC WASHDC

USDA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 1176

ATHENS AND TEHRAN FOR TRADE CENTER DIRECTORS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, IZ

SUBJECT: US PARTICIPATION IN 1976 BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL FAIR

REF: A) BAGHDAD A-28 (MAY 13, 1974);

B) BAGHDAD 449 (JULY 30, 1974);

C) BAGHDAD 1039 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: US HAS BEEN INVITED PARTICIPATE IN OCTOBER 1976 BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL FAIR. USINT RECOMMENDS PARTICIPATION AND REQUESTS ASAP AUTHORIZATION TO INFORM MFA OF OUR DECISION IN PRINCIPY TO DO SO. UNANIMOUS OPINION OF EEC COMMERCIAL ATTACHES AND EXHIBITORS OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS IN 1975 FAIR IS THAT FAIR IS MAJOR VEHICLE FOR MARKET PENETRATION AND NO NATION OR COMPANY FOR WHICH IRAQ IS AN IMPORTANT EXPORT MARKET CAN AFFORD NOT TO PARTICIPATE. END SUMMARY

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2. WE WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO RECEIVE, IN LATE

OCTOBER, DIPLOMATIC NOTE INVITING USA TO PARTICIPATE IN OCTOBER 1-21, 1976 BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL FAIR. BECAUSE OF OBVIOUSLY "CIRCULAR" NATURE OF NOTE, WE DELAYED REPORTING INVITATION UNTIL WE HAD CONFIRMED DISCREETLY THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN SENT IN ERROR (DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL FROM REF.(B) THAT WE WERE EXPLICITLY TURNED DOWN FOR PARTICIPATION IN 1975 BAGHDAD FAIR).

3. SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL ASSESS BROADER SIGNIFICANCE OF INVITATION.

4. UNANIMOUS OPINION OF EEC COMMERCIAL ATTACHES (WITH WHOM USINT COMMERCIAL OFFICER MEETS MONTHLY) IS THAT 1975 BAGHDAD FAIR WAS FAR BETTER THAN ANY OTHER. 94. ALL EEC ATTACHES HAVE, MOREOVER, RECOMMENDED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATE IN NEXT YEAR'S FAIR ON PURELY COMMERCIAL GROUNDS. EXHIBITORS OF US PRODUCTS IN 1975 (E.G. BIG DUTCHMAN, ALLIS-CHALMERS, FIAT-ALLIS, FRUEHAUF, AND AN INDEPENDENT GM VEHICLE DEALER FROM NEW YORK) WERE UNANIMOUS IN SAYING THAT EXHIBITIONS HAD MADE SALES THROUGH FAIR WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED OTHERWISE. ON BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH MANAGERS OF SOVIET, JAPANESE, AND ITALIAN NATIONAL PAVILIONS, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS PRIVATE BRITISH, GERMAN AND OTHER EXHIBITORS, IT IS OUR CONCLUSION THAT VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING DISPLAYED AT 1975 FAIR WAS SOLD--INCLUDING TABLES AND BOOTHS USED TO DISPLAY OBJECTS.

5. REF. A (OF WHICH AT LEAST ONE COPY IS ON FILE IN USDOC/CAGNE) GIVES PHYSICAL PLAN OF 1975 BAGHDAD FAIR AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION--INCLUDING REGULATIONS FOR IMPORT LICENSES.

6. GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1976 ARE IDENTICAL WITH 1975 EXCEPT FOR COST OF RENTING SPACE WHICH HAS RISEN TO 23.80 DOLLARS PER SQUARE METRE FOR INDOOR AREAS AND 11.90 DOLLARS FOR OUTDOOR AREAS.

7. NATIONAL PAVILIONS ARE PERMITTED DUTY-FREE ENTRY OF 34,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF CONSUMER GOODS AND 340,000 DOLLARS UNCLASSIFIED

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WORTH OF INTERMEDIATE AND CAPITAL GOODS. IN ADDITION, HOWEVER, IF ANY PARTICULAR ITEM APPEARS AGAINST A LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS OF THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY, THEY ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL PAVILION'S QUOTA. NATIONAL QUOTAS CAN BE FURTHER ENLARGED ACCORDING TO A FORMULA TO REFLECT SIZE

OF THE PAVILION AND VALUE OF EXHIBITING COUNTRY'S

EXPORTS TO IRAQ.

8. WE RECOMMEND PARTICIPATION AND REQUEST ASAP AUTHORIZATION
TO INFORM MFA OF OUR DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO TAKE PART.
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